

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

The Presbytery, Hillside Lane, Neath, SA11 1TG. Phone – 01639 643323

Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk

Sunday 14th March 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday – “Laetare” Sunday

The Year of St. Joseph A daily prayer to St. Joseph. *“Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became a man. Blessed St. Joseph, to us too, show yourself to be a father, and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen”*

Mass Intentions this Sunday (14th) St. John Kemble **Saturday** 4-00p.m. Parish & People. St. Joseph’s 6-00p.m. Laurence Macphearson-Jones (RIP) (Keith & Jane Phillips); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. Barbara Green (RIP); 10-30a.m. Peter and Hazel Huxtable (RIP) (Dennis).

Weekday Mass Times Wednesday (17th – **St. Patrick**) 9-30a.m. Laurence Macphearson-Jones (RIP) (Adrian & Paula); 11-00a.m. Helen Williams (Sp. Int.); Thursday (18th) 9-30 a.m. Fr. David Duggan (RIP) (SPCD); **FRIDAY** 19th – **ST. JOSEPH PATRONAL FEAST** (Solemnity) 6-30p.m. Rees Family (RIP) (Nuala & Martin).

Mass Intentions next Sunday (21st March) **Saturday** St. John Kemble 4-00p.m. Parish & People 6-00p.m. Mike O’Hea (RIP) (Doni, Pat & family); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. Charlie McCusker (RIP) (Deacon Jim & Marie); 10-30a.m. Eileen & Bill Whiting (RIP) (Sheila Williams).

Fridays in Lent There will be no congregational Stations of the Cross but the church will be open for private prayers and devotions each Friday in Lent from 6-00p.m. to 7-00p.m. “Come down, O Love Divine, Seek Thou this soul of mine, And visit it, Thy Holy Flame bestowing”

The Sunday 8-00a.m. Celebration of Mass. REVISED NOTICE The 8-00a.m. celebrations of Mass will continue until the rules regarding social distancing are clarified allowing greater social contact.

Gillian Bolland (RIP). We sadly announce Gillian’s death who died on Tuesday 2nd March exactly four weeks after the death of Alan, her brother. Please remember Gillian and the family in your prayers. Gillian’s Funeral Mass will be here in St. Joseph’s on Tuesday 23rd March - **by family invitation only** (pandemic restrictions still apply). *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

Dr Barbara Green (RIP) Dr Barbara Green, whose first anniversary we remember in Mass this Sunday was, over several years (from 2013) a very generous (but anonymous) benefactor to St. Joseph’s Church. It is appropriate on her anniversary to now acknowledge her great generosity to the parish which for six years, from 2013 to 2019, amounted to the sum of £35,250 and enabled us not only to become solvent as a parish – (when I arrived in 2015 we were £12,000 in debt) but also contributed (along with others) to the cost of removing dangerous asbestos from the boiler room, to install a new boiler and to renovate and restore the sanctuary. It is with a great sense of thanksgiving that I am now able to announce that in her Will Barbara bequeathed to St. Joseph’s the further sum of £40,000. We thank God for Barbara’s generosity and intend to direct her bequest to the Driveway Appeal Fund and thank God for this answer to prayer. We hoped to raise approximately £60,000 and, with Barbara’s bequest, we now have “only” (!) a further (approx.) £13,000 to raise. We hope to employ the services of a surveyor in the next few months to design and cost tarmacking (and draining) the driveway/carpark and installing some form of lighting for the driveway/carpark.

Driveway Appeal Please see notice above. Thank you for the further anonymous donation of £60. Much appreciated. We now have £46,710 in the Driveway Appeal Fund. All donations gratefully received. Please remember that if you gift aid, an additional 25% is added to the value of your donation. We hope to raise a further (approx.) £13,000 in the next few months. Thank you to all who have so generously donated to this Appeal. **Many thanks.**

The Sick and Housebound Please continue to remember in your prayers all those who are sick and housebound, those in hospital and in our local care homes and all those who are self-isolating because of the Pandemic. Especially at this time, Jason Saunders, Tess Court, Marjorie Grant, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Harold Jenkins, Maureen Pitt. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

DOMSEC Livestreamed Events in 2021 A full programme of (over 25) events! See www.domsec.org.uk or www.ourladystaroftheseamumbles.org.uk to access the livestreams and click "Livestream" on the menu bar. Next Saturday (20th March) – "Mary, the New Eve" (Fr. Gabriel – Our Lady of Lourdes, Townhill).

Online Retreat for Lent Daily prayers and readings, please visit the BBC Radio Four Website.

ENVELOPE BOXES (from April 2021-22) -available from next Sunday. If you do not already regularly donate to the church through the church envelope scheme and would like to do so, please see Robert Grant for a box. Many thanks.

PLEASE NOTE – To all stewards, readers and cleaners. **THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO COME TO CHURCH IF YOU DO NOT FEEL SAFE OR COMFORTABLE TO DO SO.** Please let Fr. Neil know so that he can arrange a replacement. Thank you.

Readers: This Sunday 6-00p.m. Patrick McAteer. 8-00a.m. Adrian & Paula Macpherson-Jones. 10-30a.m. Peter Buckingham. **Next Sunday** 6-00p.m. Ceri McAteer; 8-00a.m. Gregory Page. 10-30a.m. Berni Payne.

Stewarding This Sunday (14th) 6-00 p.m. Angela & Geraint. 8-00 a.m. Christopher & Gregory. 10-30 a.m. John, Aimee & Olivia. **Next Sunday** (21st) 6-00p.m. Angela & Geraint. 8-00a.m. Christopher and Gregory. 10-30a.m. Luke & Lena.

Cleaning Teams. This Sunday (14th) 6-00p.m. Volunteers please. 8-00a.m. Martin & Nuala. 10-30a.m. Elma, Hannah & Tommy **Next Sunday** (21st) 6-00p.m. Sian Loynes & volunteer please; 8-00a.m. Martin & Nuala. 10-30a.m. Ann/Joan/Volunteer please.

Holy week Services Following guidance from the Holy See, our Holy Week Services will be greatly simplified in accordance with the guidelines published by the Holy See at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. **PLEASE COMPLETE A REQUEST FORM TO RESERVE A SEAT FOR THE HOLY WEEK SERVICES** – and place in the box provided. It is anticipated that there may not be enough seats for all who would like to attend. Thank you.

YOUNG PEOPLE (age 18 – 30) A zoom discussion group for catholic young adults meeting on Monday evenings. Get to know other catholic young people in the Diocese. Please contact Fr. Matt Roche-Saunders at vocations@menevia.org for more information. Also check out <https://acutisproject.com/events/> providing free digital resources and training for young Catholics.

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Gladys Finnegan (2009); Elwyn Oakley (2008); Fr. Eddie Murphy (2012); Peter Huxtable (2019); Raymond Delahunty (2019); Terrance Wall (2007); John Howells (2002); Margaret Harland (2013); William Newton (2000); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Thank you for last Sunday's Collection – St. Joseph's £331-38 (plus Direct Debits). St. John Kemble £44-00. Many thanks.

Pastoral Visits Please note that Fr. Neil is happy to call if you are continuing to self-isolate at home but would appreciate a visit. However - wearing masks and observing social distancing - this must be at your own risk (!). Except for emergencies, Fr. Neil will not call uninvited during the pandemic. **Please note: At present, the Sacrament of Reconciliation – by arrangement**

Please Note If you wish to reserve a particular date or day for a Mass Intention, please note that Saturday and Sunday Masses and weekday Masses are already reserved for a particular intention until **the middle of May**. Please think several months ahead if you would like to reserve a particular date (or nearest date). Thank you.